

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS BRATISLAVA 000482

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [AMGT](#) [LO](#)

SUBJECT: ARSON ATTACK ON NGO COMBATING RACISM

1. SUMMARY. THE OFFICES OF PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM, AN NGO THAT MONITORS THE NEO-NAZI MOVEMENT IN SLOVAKIA, SUFFERED AN ARSON ATTACK LAST WEEK. THE INCIDENT WAS MOST LIKELY PLANNED TO COINCIDE WITH THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY THAT COMMEMORATES THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN SLOVAKIA OR MAY HAVE BEEN A SYMBOLIC RETALIATION FOR A SKINHEAD DEATH LAST WEEK. SLOVAK POLICE OFFERED SHORT-TERM PROTECTION AND WILL CONNECT NEW ALARMS DIRECTLY LINKED TO EMERGENCY SERVICES. THE EMBASSY IS EXPLORING A DONATION OF SURPLUS COMPUTERS OR OFFICE FURNITURE TO GET THIS NGO (A FORMER DEMOCRACY COMMISSION GRANTEE) BACK ON ITS FEET. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE EVENING OF MAY 6, AN ARSONIST SET FIRE TO THE OFFICE PREMISES OF PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM, AN NGO THAT MONITORS THE NEO-NAZI MOVEMENT IN SLOVAKIA. AN EMPLOYEE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS IN THE OFFICE, NOTICED THE FIRE, AND WAS ABLE TO ALERT AUTHORITIES QUICKLY. THE GROUP'S COMPUTERS, PHOTOCOPIER, AND OTHER OFFICE EQUIPMENT WERE DESTROYED, WITH NO INSURANCE. ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR, THE GROUP RECEIVES E-MAIL AND PHONE THREATS FREQUENTLY, BUT HAD DOWNPLAYED THE POTENTIAL SECURITY THREAT TO ITS OFFICE AND STAFF. SKINHEADS ALSO PHYSICALLY ATTACKED THREE ACTIVISTS LAST WEEK WHILE THEY HUNG POSTERS FOR A PAR EVENT. AFTER A STAFF MEMBER CAME TO THEIR AID, THE SKINHEADS FIRED UPON THEM FROM FOUR TO FIVE METERS AWAY WHILE LEAVING THE SCENE.

3. SKINHEAD VIOLENCE USUALLY COINCIDES WITH SPORTING EVENTS OR ANNIVERSARIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FIRST SLOVAK STATE, WHICH WAS A NAZI PUPPET REGIME. PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM SUGGESTED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS PLANNED NEAR THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY THAT COMMEMORATES THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN SLOVAKIA. SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR RACIALLY MOTIVATED CRIME AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR PAVOL DRAXLIR TOLD POLOFF THAT TENSIONS ROSE LAST WEEK AFTER NEO-NAZIS ATTACKED A 54-YEAR OLD ISRAELI CITIZEN AT A BUS STATION, WHO DEFENDED HIMSELF WITH A KNIFE AND KILLED HIS ATTACKER. JANA KVIECINSKA, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE, TOLD POLOFF THAT THESE LATEST CONFRONTATIONS PROVE THAT THE WORK OF PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM IS IMPORTANT AND WORTHWHILE.

4. POLICE ESTIMATE THAT SLOVAKIA HAS 500 ACTIVE NEO-NAZI MEMBERS AND NEARLY 3000 SYMPATHIZERS. THIS YEAR, POLICE DEVOTED MORE RESOURCES TO THIS ISSUE, BUT OFFENSES HAVE NOT DECREASED AND PROSECUTION REMAINS WEAK. THE POLICE OFFERED PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM SHORT-TERM PROTECTION AND WILL CONNECT NEW ALARMS DIRECTLY LINKED TO EMERGENCY SERVICES. IN THE FUTURE, THE ORGANIZATION IS LIKELY TO RELOCATE CLOSER TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

WEISER

NNNN